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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

DATE: June 8, 2004

TO: Examiner Philip C. Tucker
 Group Art Unit 1712
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: U.S. Patent Application No. 10/076,209
 Entitled: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE
Our Ref.: 00072CIP(3600-306-01)

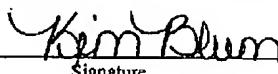
FROM: Luke A. Kilyk, Esq. 
 FAC. TEL. NO.: 1-703-872-9306

NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING THIS COVER SHEET): 10

Items Attached: Amendment After Final -- 9 pages

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**Expedited Procedure Requested
Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: BENTON et al.) Examiner: Philip C. Tucker
Application No.: 10/076,209)
Filed: February 14, 2002) Group Art Unit: 1712
Docket No.: 00072CIP (3600-306-01)) Confirmation No.: 8589

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AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 8, 2004

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the final Office Action dated March 9, 2004, for which the Examiner has set a three-month period for response, thus making the response due on or before June 9, 2004.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.